



Minutes of the Meeting of the Education Policy Committee

held on Zoom on 31 July 2020 at 9:30am.

Present: Kitty Guerin – Committee Chair

Jennie Hickey, John Robinson, Marea Nicholson, Tony Fitzgerald, Sue Lennox

In Attendance: Michael McDonald

Apologies: Lee McMaster, Craig Wattam.

Welcome: Kitty welcomed those present.

Acknowledgement of Country: Kitty acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands on which the virtual meeting took place and paid respect to the elders, past, present, and emerging.

Prayer: Jennie led the meeting in prayer.

Conflicts of Interest: In response to enquiry from the Committee Chair, no person present declared any conflict of interest in relation to any agenda item or other matters relating to the Federation.

Previous Minutes: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2020 was adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

Items of Discussion

1. Catholic Schools NSW. Danielle Cronin attended the meeting for approximately one hour. In that time, she provided updates on

a. State of the System:

- The Report was finalised and approved on 30 July.
- Report distributed to the Federation and available to the EPC.
- An abbreviated version of the Report will be made public.
- Individual school reports are available from CSNSW.

b. August Census

- CSNSW has engaged with schools.
- Most schools will upload the information themselves some are seeking the assistance of the CSNSW.
- Most schools will provide to CSNSW high level access to the data.
- CSNSW not want editing rights.

- Principal has the right to determine access to the data not the school authority.
- In the future it would be beneficial if such requests for data also came to the school authority.

c. COVID 19

- National Cabinet will continue. COAG will no longer exist.
- The Education Council continues.
- Need to protect the position of the Catholic sector on the processes established by this new structure. The Education Reform Agenda is underway.
- Should ACARA and AITSL be collapsed. NSW does not agree.

d. National Evidence Institute

- Consultation with the sectors over the coming months.
- Danielle will distribute document.
- Unique Student Number has been resurfaced as an issue.

e. Enhanced Accountability

- NSW seeking to harmonise accountability to Commonwealth.
- MOU with NSW Government.
- More reporting about the use of funds
- Greater sharing of student performance with NSW Government e.g. Naplan. HSC.

f. Choice and Affordability Fund

- Distribution of monies should be imminent. It has not happened yet.

g. Reviews

- A few reviews will require the Federation Response e.g. Curriculum Review, Senior Secondary Review, Lathan Review, Disability Royal Commission, AITSL - Bullying of Teachers.

h. CSNSW Projects

- Strategic Workforce Analysis. Graduates and Applications for Teaching Degrees declined by 27% over the last 5 years in NSW – not evident in other States.
- Capital Planning. Whole of State capital planning.
- Professional Learning Institute.

i. Other Matters

- CSNSW represented RI and PJP Schools with the Government over Covid because it was wanting one point of reference. Public Health however

- Principals are drained and are in catlike readiness to deal with an outbreak.

2. CCER EA

- Not completed but CCER has handled the situation better.
- CCER responding to IEU Recommendations.

3 Meeting with CCER Executive Director

- Agree to invite Ian Yard Smith to the next EPC meeting.
- Opportunity for rebuilding the approach to EA processes and ER generally.

4 Principals' Briefings

- Agreed to prepare a Principals' briefing for 16 October. Kitty, Sue, Tony, and Michael are to meet and prepare an outline to discuss at the next EPC meeting on 11 September. A date claimer to be sent out after the groups initial meeting. Focus is on COVID Recovery in the context of fees, changed funding and linked to ER and rebuilding the connection with CCER through an appropriate structure.
- Need to consider a welcoming process for new principals. The draft policy proposes only minor changes

4 Council Meeting

- The Council has nominated Dr Frank Malloy and Emeritus Professor Marea Nicholson to CORMSAA of AMPJP. Both appointed. Three names are to go to the Bishops next year for appointment to NCEC. Current situation in WA is a problem and we need to be vigilant in NSW about such creeping erosion of autonomy.

Next meeting 11 September 2020

The meeting concluded 11.35 a.m.

